Water Resources of the Navajo Nation

Closing the Gap between Water Supply and Demand – University of Arizona

April 2014
Navajo Nation Water Use

- Water Supply
- Legal Right to use the Water
- Infrastructure to Convey the Water
Water Development & Use Issues

- **Quantity**
  - Surface water
  - Groundwater
  - Water Rights
- **Accessibility**
  - Source: Ground Water or Surface Water
  - Permitting
  - Conveyance
  - Land Status & Right-of-Way
- **Reliability**
  - Drought
  - Maintenance
    - Public Water Systems & Wells
    - Livestock Wells & Stock Ponds
    - Irrigation Systems
- **Quality**
  - EPA Standards
- **Funding**
  - To improve quality, accessibility & reliability
  - Bureaucratic Processes
    - Tribal
    - State
    - Federal
      - Trust Responsibility is Subject to Debate

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**Colorado River Water Supply and Demand**

- [Graph showing water supply and demand]
Current Supplies: More than 90 Percent is Groundwater. The Navajo Nation Needs Access to Surface Water Supplies
Current and Future Demands

- Domestic
  - More than $600 million in current needs
- Agricultural
  - More than $1 billion needed for various projects
- Cultural
  - Important throughout the Navajo Nation
- Municipal
  - Many current systems not sized for municipal demands
  - Upgrades are needed for many systems
  - Studies being conducted.
- Industrial
  - Major part of economy until other sectors of business can participate
- other
Planning Funding

- Navajo Area Indian Health Service
  - Feasibility Reports
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
  - Water Resource Planning & Predevelopment
- Bureau of Reclamation
  - Appraisal Studies, Basin Study, etc.
- New Mexico
  - Tribal Infrastructure Funds, etc.
- Arizona
  - Water Infrastructure Finance Authority, etc.
- Navajo Nation
  - General Funds
- Other
Planning and Design Funding

- Navajo Area Indian Health Service
  - Feasibility Report
- US Bureau of Reclamation
  - Appraisal Study
  - Feasibility Study
- US Department of Agriculture
  - Rural Development
    - Preliminary Engineering Report Reimbursement
- US Army
    - Specific Authorities
- New Mexico
  - Tribal Infrastructure Funds
  - Water Trust Board Funds
- Arizona
  - Water Infrastructure Finance Authority
- Navajo Nation
- Other
Construction Funding

- **Competitive/Programmatic Annual Appropriations**
  - Navajo Area Indian Health Service
    - $5 to $10 million per year
  - US Department of Agriculture
    - Rural Development
      - Up to $1 million per chapter
  - US EPA
    - Safe Drinking Water Act
    - Clean Water Act
  - Navajo Nation
    - General Funds
    - Community Development Block Grant
    - Abandoned Mine Lands
  - New Mexico
    - Water Trust Board
    - Tribal Infrastructure Funds
    - Legislative Appropriations

- **Dedicated Appropriations**
  - Negotiated Water Settlement Projects
Navajo Nation Water Planning & Development: VISION, PLANNING & COORDINATION IS KEY!

Thank you